

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving entertainment programming input;
 - 3 identifying multiple available versions of an entertainment program;
 - 4 identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information
 - 5 regarding the respective version;
 - 6 accessing user preferences; and
 - 7 selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison of the
 - 8 descriptive information to the user preferences.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying comprises identifying multiple
 - 2 versions of the entertainment program that start within a threshold period of time of one
 - 3 another.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least some of the multiple versions are
 - 2 provided on different transport media, the method further comprising:
 - 3 identifying, for each of the one or more different channel transport media,
 - 4 a set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and
 - 5 wherein selecting comprises comparing the sets of channel transport
 - 6 medium descriptive information to the user preferences.

1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a selection of an
2 entertainment program and wherein identifying multiple versions comprises identifying
3 alternate versions of the selected entertainment program.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting comprises selecting the one of
2 the multiple versions having the set of descriptive information most closely resembling
3 the set of user preferences.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the descriptive information comprises a
2 plurality of characteristics and wherein selecting comprises selecting the one of the
3 multiple versions having the most number of characteristics that conform to the user
4 preferences.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of descriptive information for each
2 of the multiple versions includes one or more of channel transport medium, duration of
3 the version, type of audio support for the version, availability of enhanced programming
4 for the version, language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the version,
5 screen format of the version, and color code of the version.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying a user of an
2 entertainment system and wherein accessing user preferences comprises accessing a user
3 preferences for the identified user.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying multiple versions comprises
2 searching through data of an electronic programming guide.

1 10. A storage medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that,
2 when executed by a processor, result in:
3 receiving entertainment programming input;

4 identifying multiple available versions of an entertainment program;
5 identifying, for each of the multiple versions, a set of descriptive information
6 regarding the respective version;
7 accessing user preferences; and
8 selecting one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison of the
9 descriptive information to the user preferences..

1 11. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
2 executed by the processor, further result in identifying multiple versions of the
3 entertainment program that start within a threshold period of time of one another.

1 12. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein at least some of the multiple
2 versions are provided on different transport media, wherein the plurality of instructions,
3 when executed by the processor, further result in:

4 identifying, for each of the one or more different channel transport media,
5 a set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and
6 selecting by comparing the sets of channel transport medium descriptive
7 information to the user preferences.

1 13. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
2 executed by the processor, further result in receiving a selection of an entertainment
3 program and identifying alternate versions of the selected entertainment program.

1 14. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the plurality of instructions, when
2 executed by the processor, further result in selecting the one of the multiple versions of
3 the entertainment program having the set of descriptive information most closely
4 resembling the set of user preferences.

1 15. The storage medium of claim 9, wherein the set of descriptive information
2 for each of the multiple versions includes one or more of channel transport medium,
3 duration of the version, type of audio support for the version, availability of enhanced
4 programming for the version, language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the
5 version, screen format of the version, and color code of the version.

1 16. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:
2 a program guide controller to receive entertainment programming input;
3 a selection controller coupled to the program guide controller to identify multiple
4 available versions of an entertainment program, to identify, for each of the multiple
5 versions, a set of descriptive information regarding the respective version, to access user
6 preferences and to select one of the multiple versions for display based on a comparison
7 of the descriptive information to the user preferences; and
8 a device controller, coupled to the selection controller, to display the selected one
9 of the multiple versions of the entertainment program.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the selection controller is also to
2 identify multiple versions of the entertainment program that start within a threshold
3 period of time of one another.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least some of the multiple versions
2 are provided on different transport media and wherein the selection controller is further
3 to:
4 identify, for each of the one or more different channel transport media, a
5 set of descriptive information regarding the channel transport medium; and

6 choose one of the multiple versions for display based on the sets of
7 descriptive information.

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1 19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein in selecting one of the multiple
2 versions for display, the selection controller is to select the one of the multiple versions of
3 the entertainment program having the set of descriptive information most closely
4 resembling the set of user preferences.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the descriptive information comprises
2 a plurality of characteristics and wherein in selecting the selection controller is to select
3 the one of the multiple versions having the most number of characteristics that conform to
4 the user preferences.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of descriptive information for
2 each of the multiple versions includes one or more of duration of the version, type of
3 audio support for the version, availability of enhanced programming for the version,
4 language of subtitles in the version, language spoken in the version, screen format of the
5 version, and color code of the version.